

Message Text

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17

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 EPA-04 CEQ-02 L-03 IO-14

SCI-06 INT-08 SMI-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EUR-25 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 280531Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

UNCLAS TOKYO 6876

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, UR, SENV, TBIO, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE
ON WHALING ISSUE

REF: TOKYO 6685

PASS DR. ROBERT WHITE, ADMINISTRATOR, NOAA, DOC, AND ROBERT SCHONING,
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA

SUMMARY: JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO
WHALING ISSUE FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF NOAA TEAM ARON AND FOX ON
MAY 16 AND OF JOAN MCINTYRE, PROJECT JOHAN, ON MAY 17.
TRANSLATIONS OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN JAPANESE TRADE JOURNALS AND
CLIPPINGS FROM ENGLISH EDITIONS FOLLOWS. GIST OF ARTICLES.
END SUMMARY.

A. SUISEN TSUSHIN, MAY 18, IN DESCRIBING MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN GOJ
AND USG OFFICIALS ON MAY 16-17, CLAIMED TWO SIDES WERE NOT ABLE TO
COME CLOSER TOGETHER ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. VISIT OF ARON AND FOX
DESCRIBED BY SUISEN TSUSHIN AS NOTHING MORE THAN EXPLAINING POLITICAL
MANEUVERING INITIATED BY USG AT HIGHER LEVELS TO SEEK WHALING
MORATORIUM.

B. SUISEN KEIZAI SHIMBUN, MAY 20, REPORTED MAYOR AND CITY ASSEMBLY
SPEAKER OF YAMADA CITY, IWATE PREFECTURE (SITE OF LAND WHALING
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STATION), APPEALED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES AGENCY ON

MAY 16 TO OPPOSE AT ALL COST WHALING MORATORIUM.

C. MINATO SHIMBUN, MAY 21, REPORTED REPRESENTATIVES OF WHOLE-SALES ASSOCIATION DEALING IN WHALE PRODUCTS PLAN TO PRESENT TO AMEMBASSY LETTER APPEALING FOR UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. AT IWC MEETING TO ENABLE JAPAN TO CONTINUE WHALING IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE WHALING REGULATIONS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE. NOTE: AS OF MAY 28, EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED PETITION.)

D. SUIZAN KEIZAI SHIMBUN, MAY 22, CLAIMED U.S. HAS CHANGED ITS STRATEGY AND IS NOW PUSHING FOR WHALING CONVENTION TO BE AMENDED SO THAT ISSUE ON CONSERVATION OF WHALES WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY THEIR COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION BUT ALSO AESTHETIC, RECREATIONAL AND ECOLOGICAL FACTORS.

E. MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, MAY 22, DESCRIBED INTERVIEW WITH PRESS HELD BY JOAN MCINTYRE, PRESIDENT, PROJECT JOHAN, AND DR. SPONG, GREEN PEACE FOUNDATION ON MAY 21. SPONG QUOTED AS SAYING HIS CAMPAIGN IN JAPAN, GENERALLY SPEAKING, HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL; HIS ACTIVITIES FAILED TO GAIN SATISFACTORY MASS MEDIA EXPOSURE; AND WHALE PROTECTION MOVEMENT MUST NOW TURN TO ALTERNATIVE OF BOYCOTTING JAPANESE GOODS. MCINTYRE WAS REPORTED AS SHARING SPONG'S VIEWS ON BOYCOTT BUT WAS QUOTED TO BE MORE OPTIMISTIC ON MORATORIUM ISSUE. ACCORDING TO MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, MCINTYRE PLANS TO BRING SOON TO JAPAN THREE CHILDREN, ONE EACH FROM SWEDEN, CANADA AND U.S., TO APPEAL TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AND DIRECTOR GENERAL MIKI OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY TO STOP JAPANESE WHALING.

F. SUIZAN KEIZAI SHIMBUN, MAY 23, ALSO COVERED MCINTYRE'S PRESS INTERVIEW. PAPER CITED MCINTYRE AS CLAIMING WORLD FOOD PROBLEM CAUSED BY POPULATION EXPLOSION AND MAN'S ABUSE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WHALING REPRESENTS EXAMPLE OF MAN'S DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY ON EARTH. MCINTYRE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED WHALE MEAT NOT IMPORTANT TO JAPANESE DIET AND SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY JAPANESE ARE CONTINUING WHALING OPERATIONS EVEN TO EXTENT OF RESISTING WORLD OPINION. SHE ALSO CLAIMED SUPPORT OF FIVE MILLION PEOPLE IN BOYCOTT MOVEMENT.

G. JAPAN TIMES, MAY 22, REPORTED JAPAN WHALING ASSOCIATION HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUED NEW PAMPHLET IN JAPANESE TITLED "IMPORTANCE OF WHALING." (NOTE: ENGLISH VERSION EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED BY ASSOCIATION IN ABOUT A WEEK. PAMPHLET WILL BE POUCHED WHEN RECEIVED.) ACCORDING TO JAPAN TIMES, PAMPHLET CLAIMS WHALING BEING CONDUCTED ON BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SO THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN THAT WHALES ARE DECLINING IN ABUNDANCE. IN 1973, JAPANESE ATE 123,000 METRIC TONS OF WHALE MEAT, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT SIX PERCENT OF ALL MEAT CONSUMED

IN JAPAN. TO REPLACE WHALE MEAT CONSUMED IN JAPAN, EQUIVALENT OF
220,000 TONS OF BEEF (OR 290,000 TONS OF PORK) WOULD BE
NEEDED BUT SUCH SUBSTITUTION WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE INVIEW OF HIGH
COST OF BEEF.
SHOESMITH

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